

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending. Please note that the pending claims were not originally-filed in the parent application and that the attached U.S. national-stage application is not identical to Int'l Appln. No. PCT/EP2004/051556. But new claims and the Abstract of the Disclosure are included in the attached U.S. national-stage application in accordance with the guidance of 1251 OG 54 (Oct. 9, 2001). A copy of the International Application should have been communicated by the International Bureau.

A statement claiming priority to a parent application is added.

Form PTO-1449 listing documents for the Examiner's consideration is attached. Copies of the Int'l Search Report and the Int'l Preliminary Report on Patentability, which indicate the significance of each document to the originally-filed PCT claims, are also attached. Copies of the foreign patent and other documents should have been supplied directly to the PTO by the International Bureau. But if the copies are not timely received from the International Bureau, Applicants request additional time (see 37 CFR § 1.97(f)) and invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned to provide copies of the documents.

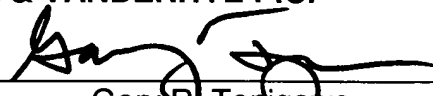
As provided by 37 CFR §§ 1.97(g) and (h), no representation is being made that a search has been conducted or that this statement encompasses all possible material information. Furthermore, no inference should be made that this information or the cited references are prior art merely because they have been submitted for consideration. Consideration of the foregoing and enclosures, as well as the return of a copy of the Form PTO-1449 with the Examiner's initials per M.P.E.P. § 609, are earnestly solicited.

Applicants earnestly solicit an early and favorable examination on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

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